The status of reforms and restructuring is as under :—

1 SFRC

Fourteen States (Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradsh, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan) have either constituted or notified the constitution of SFRC.

A Bill to amend the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 23.12.1999 to enable two or more States/UTs to form a joint Electricity Regulatory Commission.

2. *CORPORATISATION OF SEBs :*

The SEB's of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have been unbundled/corporatised.

3. *DISTRIBUTION REFORMS*

Orissa has privatised distribution through four joint venture distribution companies where 51% share holding and management control have been handed over to private firms.

The Government of UP plans to privatise distribution in Kanpur and has invited price bids for 74% of the share holding of the distribution company created for Kanpur.

The Government of Delhi has commissioned studies to look into the aspect of corporatisation and undertaking distribution through joint venture companies. Many States are taking action for creating distribution profit centres.

Private sector participation in power sector

1473. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the measures taken in the recent past by Government to encourage private sector participation in power sector;

(b) whether Government have any plans to provide guarantees to all those who propose to invest in power sector in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the progress/status on the work relating to handing over of distribution of power to the private sector by SEBs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The following major initiatives have been taken by the Government for encouraging private sector participation in the power sector.

(i) The Electricity Laws Amendment, Act 1998 was enacted to make transmission as a distinct activity for encouraging greater participation in the investment in the private sector.

(ii) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commision Act, 1998 was enacted.

(iii) A policy on Hydro Power Development was initiated for accelerating the pace of hydro power development in order to exploit the vast hydro-electric potential at faster pace, increase the private investment and promote small and mini hydel projects.

(iv) The development of mega power projects at mine pit-heads and coastal locations both in public and private sector with transmission facilities for evacuation of power to other regions was encouraged.

(v) The rate of return for licensees was delinked from RBI rate in order to provide better incentives to the licensees.

(vi) The limit of capital expenditure requiring approval from CEA in relation to a scheme for the thermal generating station prepared by a generating company has been increased.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

(d) and (e) Orissa is the only State which has recently privatised distribution. After the enactment of the Orissa Electrtcity Reforms

Act, 1995, the erstwhile Orissa State Electricity Board was unbundled into Orissa Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC) and Grid Corporation of Orissa (GRIDCO). Subsequently, four subsidiary companies of GRIDCO were created for distribution activities. 51% of GRIDCO's equity holding in these companies have been disinvested in favour of private companies. Bombay Suburban Electricity Supply Company Limited (BSES) has taken over three distribution zones (WESCO, NORTHCO & SOUTHCO) and the US based AES Ltd. has taken over the Central Zone (CESCO). Andhra Pradesh and Haryana have initiated the process of unbundling SEBs and encouraging private investment in distribution.

Fly ash from Thermal Power Plants

1474. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of Fly ash from Thermal Power Plants in Madhya Pradesh and in the country as a whole;

(b) what is the percentage of utilisation of this fly ash in manufacture of products and in land fills and mine fills, in Madhya Pradesh as well as the country as a whole;

(c) what is the area of land earmarked for dumping of fly ash in Madhya Pradesh and in the country as a whole;

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure higher utilisation of fly ash; and

(e) what is the target for the next four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) During 1998-99, the production of fly ash in Madhya Pradesh was 12.8 million tonnes/annum as against 80 million tonnes/annum by the power utilities (excluding captive power plants) in the country. The percentage of utilisation of fly ash in Madhya Pradesh was 5.2% by MPEB and 14.41% by NTPC. The level of land and mine fill was about 50% of the utilisation whereas the percentage utilisation of fly ash in the country during 1998-99 as a whole was 12.28%. Land over 50,000